Short Form 36-Item Health Survey (SF-36) Component of Multiple Sclerosis Quality of Life Inventory (MSQLI)

Availability:	*The CDEs posted with this version of the SF-36 are specific to the Multiple Sclerosis Quality of Life Inventory (MSQLI). The National Institute of Health Neurological Disorder and Stroke (NINDS) received permission to post only the SF-36 version 1 questions that are used on the MSQLI*
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	Hays, RD (1994). The Medical Outcomes Study (MOS) Measures of Patient Adherence. Retrieved April 19, 2004, from the RAND Corporation web site: PLEASE CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION
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Supplemental for all Diseases

Classification:

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Short Description of Instrument:

Construct measured: Health-related quality of life

Generic vs. disease specific: Generic

Means of administration: Interview or Self-Administered

Intended respondent: Patient

of items: 36

of subscales and names of sub-scales: 8 – Physical Functioning, Role – Physical, Bodily Pain, General Health, Vitality, Social Functioning, Role-

Emotional, Mental Health

of items per sub-scale: Varies

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Comments/Special instructions:

Scoring: The scoring system for the SF-36 is relatively complex and generates subscale scores for physical functioning, role limitations due to physical problems, bodily pain, general health perceptions, vitality, social functioning, role-limitations due to emotional problems, and mental health. There is no single overall score for the SF-36, instead, It generates 8 subscales and two summary scores. Two summary scores can also be derived from the SF-36: the physical component summary and the mental component summary.

Scoring corresponds to the use of the instrument. For SF-36 v1, scoring instructions are publically available from the Rand Corporation (PLEASE CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION

For assessment of multiple sclerosis, question order varies from the original version but content is included in the MSQLI and MSQOL-54 instruments with additional content that must be presented and scored to validate its use. Instructions and instruments for MS are publically available from the National Multiple Sclerosis Society (PLEASE CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Rationale/ Justification:

Strengths/ Weaknesses:

The SF-36 is easy to administer, covers a broad range of domains of health-related quality of life, and is among the most widely used of such measures. Availability of population-based normative data makes the SF-36 useful for comparative purposes. The availability of several subscales may

be useful to investigators interested in testing hypotheses concerning these different areas of function.

Psychometric Properties: In an MS population, the Cronbach's alphas for the various subscales of the SF-36 range from .67 to .94. There is considerable evidence for the validity of the SF-36 in a variety of populations including MS. (Vickrey et al, 1995) In Vickrey's study, the physical functioning and role limitations due to physical problems subscales were the ones that best discriminated between MS patients and the normative U.S. population.

data can be compared to the US normative population and across disease states. To keep the instrument brief, some health status concepts are missing, e.g. family functioning, sexual functioning, cognitive functioning, sleep disorders. Suitable for self-administration, computerized administration or administration by a trained interviewer in person or by telephone.

Administration: Administration time is approximately 10 minutes. The SF-36 is a structured, self-report questionnaire that the patient can generally complete with little or no intervention from an interviewer. However, patients with visual or upper extremity impairments may need to have the SF-36 administered as an interview. Interviewers should be trained in basic interviewing skills and in the use of this instrument.

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